

P.G. #84-17  
Sharpersville School  
15508 Berry Road, Accokeek, Md.  
Priv/Occ/Res/Good

1877

The Sharpersville school is a one-story one-room frame structure with gable roof; entrance is into the second bay of the two-bay west gable end. An interior brick chimney rises at the ridge of the (rear) east gable end. Attached to the south of the schoolhouse is a low lean-to addition.

The Sharpersville school is one of only two known Black schoolhouses in Prince George's County surviving from the period immediately following the Civil War. In 1877, Augustus Lancaster, a freedman and farmworker, purchased 13 acres of farmland, and within a month offered one acre to the School Commissioners; a small one-room school was built and in operation by the end of the year. Lancaster and two other men served as trustees of this new "Colored" School #1 for the Piscataway Election District. Although the schoolhouse was very small, it at times served seven grade levels of students all in one room; it continued to operate until ca. 1940. After it closed, the school and one-acre lot were sold to Dominic Lancaster, one of the younger sons of Augustus Lancaster; it is presently the home of his son. It is significant because it is one of only two (known) surviving Black schoolhouses in Prince George's County from the nineteenth century.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. #84-17

Magi No. 1704255604

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sharpersville School

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 15508 Berry Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Accokeek ☐ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Md. county P. G.

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ralph Lancaster

street & number 15508 Berry Road telephone no.:

city, town Accokeek state and zip code Md. 20607

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse liber 2044

street & number Main Street folio 374

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md. 20737

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 84-17

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Sharpersville schoolhouse is a one-story one-room frame structure with gabled roof. Entrance is into the second bay of the two-bay west gable end. An interior brick chimney rises at the ridge of the (rear) east gable end. Attached to the south of the schoolhouse is a low lean-to addition, which covers the two bays of the building's south facade. There is a second entrance into the west end of this addition.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.P.G. 84-17

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates 1877

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ rational ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Sharpersville school is one of the only two surviving one-room Black schools in Prince George's County from the period immediately following Emancipation. In 1877, Augustus Lancaster, a freedman and farmworker, purchased 13 acres of farmland from William H. Gwynn, a prominent landowner of the Piscataway area. Lancaster himself was illiterate, but several of his children attended the Freedman's Bureau School which operated in the late 1860's. Within a month of his purchase, Lancaster offered one acre of his farm to the Board of School Commissioners; it was surveyed, and the deed was recorded in September of 1877. The school was in operation by the end of that year, although it is possible that it was operating even before the lot was conveyed to the Board of School Commissioners. Augustus Lancaster served with two other men as trustees of the school.

The Sharpersville school was known as "Colored" school #1 for Election District #5, and until ca.1900, it and school #2 (Chapel Hill) were the only schools for Black children in the Piscataway District. It was a small school house, which at times served seven grade levels of students all in one room. By 1924, the little schoolhouse was greatly overcrowded, and the Board considered using the White school at Sharpersville as a "colored" school as well, but that proposal was eventually rejected.

Despite its small size, Sharpersville school apparently continued to operate until ca. 1940. After it closed, the schoolhouse and its one-acre lot were sold to Dominic Lancaster, one of the younger sons of Augustus Lancaster. A small shed-roof addition was built onto the schoolhouse, and since 1945, this enlarged schoolhouse has been the residence of descendants of Augustus Lancaster, first of his son Dominic, and (to the present) of Dominic's son, Ralph Lancaster.

It is significant because it is one of only two (known) Black schoolhouses surviving from the nineteenth century.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. 84-17

P.G. Deeds: #2044:374; #2044:372; #1283:219; #798:359; HB #12:565, 528.  
Journal of Board of School Commissioners 1865-1903; 1903-21; 1921-1940.  
P.G.Co. Public School Archives, dept. of Plant Maintenance, Upper Marl.  
Conversation with Mabel Lancaster Johnson, April 1983; and P.G.  
County Census; Piscataway Election District, 1870.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC

date May 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale

telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale

state Maryland 20737

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

<b>1. NAME</b>																								
COMMON: Sharperville School																								
AND/OR HISTORIC: School House - Berry Road																								
<b>2. LOCATION</b>																								
STREET AND NUMBER: Berry Road (North of T.B. - Accokeek Road)																								
CITY OR TOWN: Accokeek																								
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's																					
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>																								
<b>CATEGORY (Check One)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<b>OWNERSHIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath		<b>STATUS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress																				
<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																								
<b>PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Government</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Comments</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Educational</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Military</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Religious</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Museum</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)																					
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific																						
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>																								
OWNER'S NAME: Dominie Lancaster																								
STREET AND NUMBER: Berry Road																								
CITY OR TOWN: Accokeek			STATE: Maryland																					
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>																								
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse																								
STREET AND NUMBER:																								
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland																					
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):																								
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>																								
TITLE OF SURVEY: None																								
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local																								
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:																								
STREET AND NUMBER:																								
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:																					

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a one story, frame structure with a two-bay, gabled main (west) facade. Along the south side is a lean-to addition. On the rear (east) facade is an internal chimney.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

31 July 74

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

## 12.

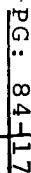
State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

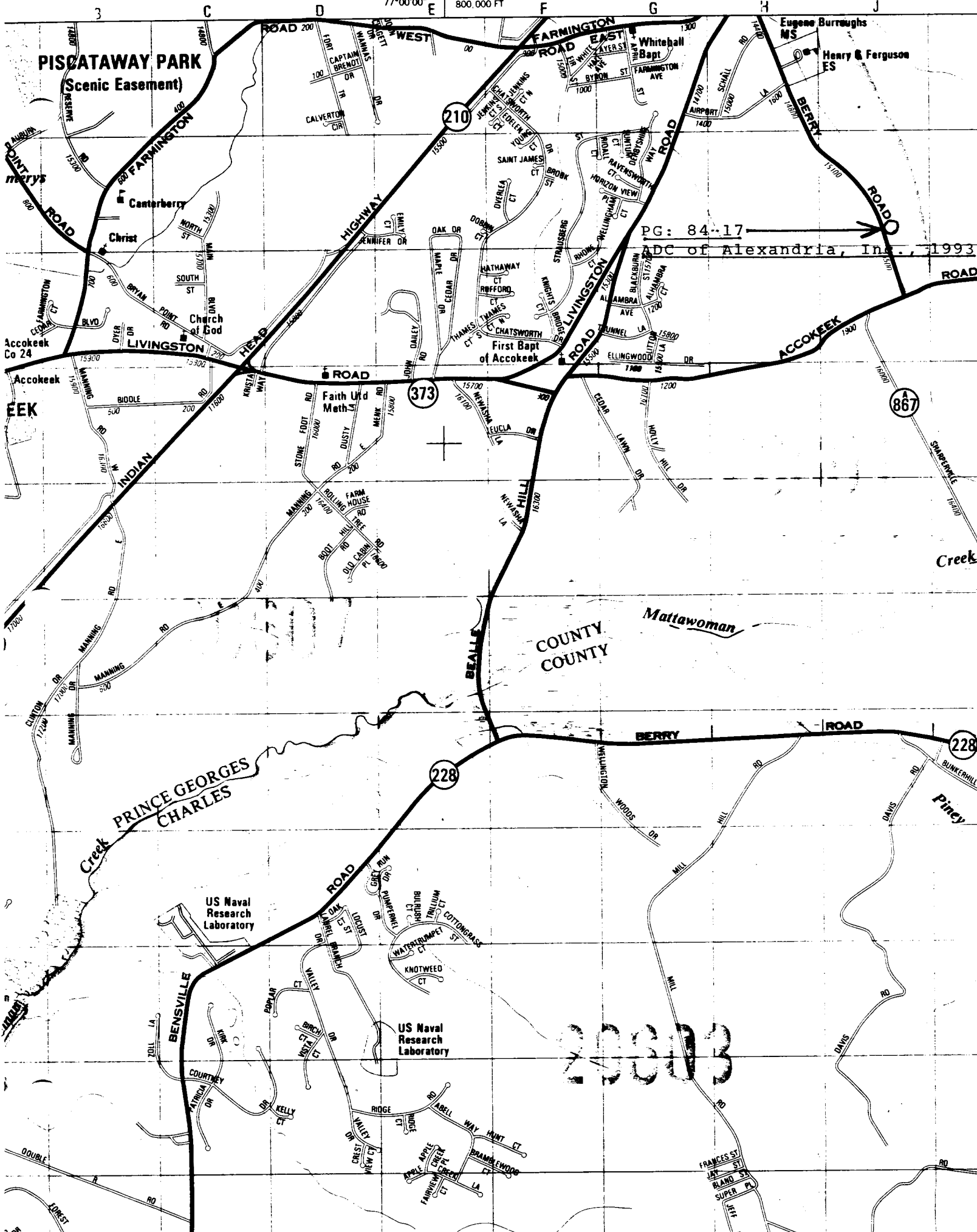
Significance of this property is:

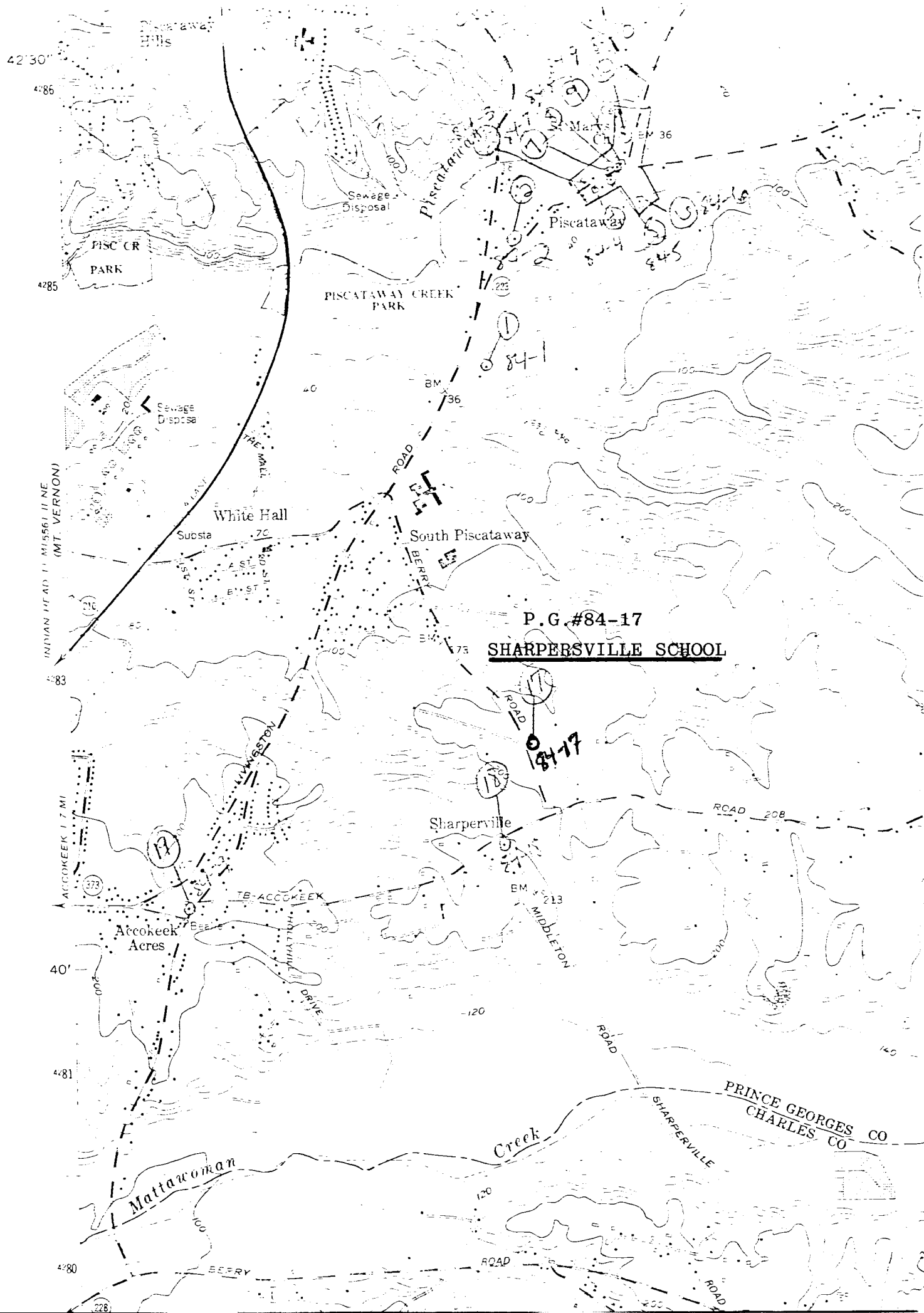
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

*Scale 2 Inches to the Mile*









NAME SHARPERVILLE SCHOOL P6:84-17  
LOCATION BERRY RD N OF RT 373 ACCOKEEK, MD  
EACADE SW  
PHOTO TAKEN 7/31/74 MDWYER



P. G. #84-17

Sharpersville School  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
May 1983  
West Elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.